

# Statement



Commenting on Connecticut Bill Number 5507 (O'Brien)  
February 26, 2007

**Position: The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) respectfully submits Testimony on House Bill No. 5507, legislation that would require the creation of a purchasing program for state purchasers of drugs and retail pharmacies electing to purchase drugs through such a program.**

PhRMA recognizes the importance of providing patients with access to life-sustaining and cost-effective pharmaceuticals. PhRMA also recognizes that states are under pressure to provide patients with life-saving pharmaceuticals while dealing with changing state budget priorities. While PhRMA has no objection to the creation and administration of a pharmaceutical purchasing consortium for state departments and agencies, we oppose a purchasing program that combines state programs, Medicaid patients and retail pharmacies.

Many state benefit programs and benefit programs served by retail pharmacies have designated coverage requirements intended to meet the unique health needs of these populations. Connecticut may find it more complicated than anticipated to combine negotiations for each population without compromising the quality of care and the integrity of the program benefit. For example, the Federal Medicaid program has specific requirements related to the medical care of a population with special medical needs, including patients receiving medications for mental health and antiretroviral and AIDS medications.

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*Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America*

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